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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

524

June 29, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

Implementation of the MOBILE NOW Act is critical for paving the way for wireless innovation and securing American leadership in next-generation technology. Recognizing the importance of both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, MOBILE NOW requires the Federal Communications Commission and National Telecommunications and Information Administration to identify at least 100 megahertz of spectrum for licensed use below 6 GHz and at least 100 megahertz for unlicensed use below 8 GHz. As you know, the 6 GHz band has enormous potential to satisfy the unlicensed requirement and I urge you to move forward on issuing proposed rules for this band as soon as possible.

The demand on wireless networks continues to increase at a tremendous rate, and the forthcoming rollout of 5G will require even greater availability of both unlicensed and licensed spectrum to deliver a seamless gigabit experience to Americans. Some forecast that by 2021, as much as 50 percent of all data traffic will go over wireless local area networks using unlicensed spectrum. In order to meet this demand, the Wi-Fi ecosystem may require as much as 500 MHz - 1.6 GHz of additional mid-band spectrum.

I appreciate your commitment to implementing MOBILE NOW. With a new allocation of spectrum, we have an opportunity to encourage innovation and investment, and to secure U.S. leadership in 5G. In order to realize the benefit of both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, I ask that you take action regarding unlicensed use of the 6 GHz band as soon as practicable.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 10, 2018

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thune:

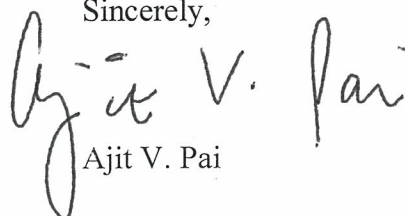
Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's implementation of the MOBILE NOW Act. I agree that we need to move quickly on 5G deployment and ensure that America continues to lead the world in mobile innovation. And I appreciate your leadership on spectrum issues—your support has provided the Commission with the tools and impetus to expand and expedite our work in this vitally important area.

Like MOBILE NOW, our spectrum strategy takes an all-of-the-above approach, aiming to make low-band, mid-band, and high-band airwaves available for flexible use. In February, we looked at new experimental licensing and expanding unlicensed use above 95 GHz. In March, we moved to increase the use of the 4.9 GHz band. In May, we opened a rulemaking to liberalize the 2.5 GHz band and fill in the rural white spaces. In June, we finalized rules for flexible use in the 24 GHz band and—per MOBILE NOW—sought comment on opening up the 42 GHz band for flexible use. In July, we proposed to make up to 500 MHz of spectrum in the 3.7 GHz band available for flexible use—and we are gathering the information we need to assess the feasibility of that band for sharing as required by MOBILE NOW. Just this month, we scheduled the 28 GHz and 24 GHz auctions and proposed a new incentive auction so that we can auction off the Upper 37 GHz, 39 GHz, and 47 GHz bands in 2019.

Like you, I believe in the power of unlicensed spectrum. That's why I have announced that the Commission will be moving forward with a rulemaking to consider opening up the 6 GHz band to unlicensed use this fall. And I appreciate the mandate of MOBILE NOW to ensure that we open up at least 100 MHz of unlicensed spectrum below 8 GHz in the near term. Like you, I don't believe that American innovation can afford to wait.

I appreciate your continued interest in spectrum matters as well as the considerable trust MOBILE NOW places in the Commission to get the job done. I look forward to continuing to work with you on these matters.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai